

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1-13 (Canceled):

Claim 14 (Currently amended): A connecting device comprising:

a bendable member which has enough restoring force and rigidity to restore a bent state to an unbent state and foldably connects two housing portions separated from each other by a predetermined distance; and

a sheet shaped member covering the bendable member and at least front surfaces of the two housing portions faced to each other at the bent state of the bendable member,

wherein the bendable member has an arc shape in sectional view perpendicular to a direction in which the bendable member bridges the two housing portions while the two housings are in an unfolded state.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): A connecting device comprising:

a joint member having flexibility on which two housing portions are fixed at a predetermined gap; and

a bendable member which has enough restoring force and rigidity to restore a bent state to an unbent state and foldably connects the two housing portions so as to be overlapped with the two housing portions,

wherein the bendable member has an arc shape in sectional view perpendicular to a direction in which the bendable member bridges the two housing portions while the two housings are in an unfolded state, and the joint member covers the bendable member and at least front surfaces of the two housing portions faced to each other at the bent state of the bendable member.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): The connecting device according to claim 14,

wherein the bendable member is attached to the two housing portions, with a longitudinal concave portion thereof oriented in a direction parallel to a direction in which the two housing portions are folded.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The connecting device according to claim 15,

wherein the bendable member is mounted to the two housing portions, with a longitudinal concave portion thereof oriented

in a direction parallel to a direction in which the two housing portions are folded.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): The connecting device according to claim 15,

wherein the joint member has a folding force generating means for generating folding force to hold a folded state of the housing portions at a substantially central region thereof corresponding to the gap between the two housing portions.

Claim 19 (Cancelled)

Claim 20 (Currently amended): A connecting device comprising:
a connecting portion which foldably connects two housing portions, wherein said connecting portion comprises a bendable member and a sheet shaped member covering the bendable member and at least front surfaces of the two housing portions faced to each other at a bent state of the bendable member, and wherein the bendable member has a curved shape in sectional view perpendicular to a direction in which the bendable member bridges the two housing portions while the two housings are in an unfolded state;

a flexible wiring member which connects the two housing portions such that they can communicate with each other; and

a receiving antenna which is connected to one of the two housing portions, wherein the connecting portion covers the flexible wiring member and the receiving antenna.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): An electronic apparatus comprising:
two housing portions; and
the connecting device according to claim 14 that foldably connects the two housing portions.

Claim 22 (Previously presented): The electronic apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising;

a display unit that is provided in one of the two housing portions; and

an operating unit that is provided in the other housing portion,

wherein, when the two housing portions are in a folded state, the display unit and the operating unit are arranged opposite to each other.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): The electronic apparatus according to claim 21,

wherein both ends of the bendable member in the longitudinal direction are fixed to leading ends of bosses provided on the two housing portions, and

the leading ends of the bosses have spherical shapes.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): The electronic apparatus according to claim 21,

wherein both ends of the bendable member in the longitudinal direction are fixed to leading ends of bosses provided on the two housing portions, and

the leading ends of the bosses each have R portions opposite to each other.

Claim 25 (Currently amended): A folding portable terminal apparatus comprising:

an upper housing portion which has a display unit provided therein;

a lower housing portion which has an operating unit provided therein;

a connecting portion which foldably connects the upper housing portion and the lower housing portion; and

a cover which covers the connecting portion, and at least a front surface of the upper housing [[,]] and at least a front surface of the lower housing faced to each other at the folded state of the connecting portion, and the connecting portion,

wherein the connecting portion includes a plurality of connecting plates each having a curved portion that is curved on an axis parallel to a direction in which the connecting plates bridge the two housing portions while the two housings are in an unfolded state.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): The folding portable terminal apparatus according to claim 25,

wherein the plurality of connecting plates overlap each other.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): The connecting device according to claim 14,

wherein the bendable member extends in a single straight line from one of the two housing portions to the other housing portion.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): The connecting device according to claim 27,

wherein the bendable member has substantially gutter shape in a connecting direction thereof.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): The connecting device according to claim 14, wherein the sectional view of a central portion of the bendable member has a linear shape when the two housings are in a folded state.

Claim 30 (Previously presented): The connecting device according to claim 15, wherein the sectional view of a central portion of the bendable member has a linear shape when the two housings are in a folded state.

Claim 31 (Previously presented): The connecting device according to claim 20, wherein the sectional view of a central portion of the bendable member has a linear shape when the two housings are in a folded state.

Claim 32 (Previously presented): The connecting device according to claim 25, wherein the sectional view of a central portion of the connecting plates have a linear shape when the two housings are in a folded state.

Claim 33 (Previously presented): The connecting device according to claim 14, wherein an edge of the bendable member is inclined to a surface of one of the two housing portions while the two housings are in the unfolded state.

Claim 34 (Previously presented): The connecting device according to claim 15, wherein an edge of the bendable member is inclined to a surface of one of the two housing portions while the two housings are in the unfolded state.

Claim 35 (Previously presented): The connecting device according to claim 20, wherein an edge of the bendable member is inclined to a surface of one of the two housing portions while the two housings are in the unfolded state.

Claim 36 (Previously presented): The folding portable terminal apparatus according to claim 25, wherein an edge of the bendable

member is inclined to a surface of one of the two housing portions while the two housings are in the unfolded state.

Claim 37 (Previously presented): The connecting device according to claim 14, wherein a center of the bendable member has the arc-shaped cross section.

Claim 38 (Previously presented): The connecting device according to claim 15, wherein a center of the bendable member has the arc-shaped cross section.

Claim 39 (Previously presented): The connecting device according to claim 20, wherein a center of the bendable member has the arc-shaped cross section.

Claim 40 (Previously presented): The folding portable terminal apparatus according to claim 25, wherein a center of the bendable member has the arc-shaped cross section.